## Free and Reduced Price Meal Benefits

To apply for Free and Reduced Price meal benefits, please choose from one of the following options:

Option 1:

## **Apply Online**

Go paperless and apply online -- just create a SchoolCafé account: <u>www.schoolcafe.com</u>. It's convenient, secure and easy to do.

SchoolCafé allows families to:

- Check meal application status
- Print out notification letters
- Use the mobile app on Android, iOS devices

Option 2:

## **Paper Application**

Contact the school office, school cafeteria, or print online\* at: <a href="https://www.pps.net/nutrition">www.pps.net/nutrition</a>.

\* Translations available online

# Where to find additional information: <a href="https://www.pps.net/nutrition">www.pps.net/nutrition</a>

- Meal payment policies and procedures
- Breakfast and lunch menus
- Allergen information
- Meal prices

#### **PPS Meal Benefits Office Contact**

Have free or reduced meal benefits questions? Contact the PPS Meal Benefits Office phone: 503.916.3402

email: mealbenefits@pps.net

### **Translation & Interpretation Contact**

For translation assistance completing a meal application, call 503.916.3254.



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: I was approved last school year.

Do I have to apply this school year?

**A:** Yes! Meal benefits expire at the end of each school year. Families approved the prior school year have a 30 day grace period to apply for meal benefits at the start of the school year if they still meet federal income guidelines.

#### Q: How do I know if I qualify for meal benefits?

A: Review the federal income guidelines which are updated each school year. These can be found on the application or online. Families who qualify for assistance such as SNAP, TANF, FDPIR do not need to fill out a meal application. However, if families do not receive a Direct Certification approval letter, please contact the PPS Meal Benefits office to verify benefits for the current school year.

#### Q: If I don't qualify now, can I apply later?

**A:** Yes! If circumstances change (example: larger household size, decrease in income) families can apply anytime during the school year.